

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03699 131658Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3768

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: GOG CONCERN AND CONSTERNATION RE

NATIONAL GUARD

REF: STATE 103030 AND 119965

1. SUMMARY. MFA CYPRUS DESK OFFICER GOUNARIS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT MFA IS CONCERNED OVER TROUBLEMAKING POTENTIAL OF NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES BUT SOMEWHAT FRUSTRATED IN TRYING TO ASSESS MATTER IN LIGHT OF CONFLICTING REPORTS CIRCULATING WITHIN GOG. GOUNARIS SAID TOP MFA OFFICIALS SEIZED WITH CYPRUS AND TURKEY WILL ATTEND OTTAWA NATO MINISTERIAL. HE FEARED RELAUNCHED INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS MAY STALEMATE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF TOOK OCCASION OF GENERAL CONVERSATION WITH MFA CYPRUS DESK OFFICER GOUNARIS TO COVER POINTS STATE 103030 IN LOW KEY. GOUNARIS RESPONDED THAT MFA HAS PLACED NATIONAL GUARD PROBLEM HIGH ON CYPRUS CONCERN LIST BUT STRESSED DIFFICULTY IN FORMULATING ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES IN CONNECTION WITH NG OWING TO NUMBER AND INCONSISTENCY OF GREEK CIVILIAN AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, INCLUDING THEIR CYPRUS EMBASSY'S REPORTING. REGARDING CONTROVERSY OVER NG CADETS, GOUNARIS SAID
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03699 131658Z

CLIMAX WOULD ARRIVE WHEN CADETS COMPLETE TRAINING AND THOSE

FIFTY REJECTED BY GOC WERE READY TO RECEIVE COMMISSION.
GOUNARIS ANTICIPATED ONE WAY OUT WOULD BE FOR NG TO AGREE TO
DROP TWENTY OR SO MOST OBJECTIONABLE. GOUNARIS ADDED
PHILOSOPHICALLY THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS DID NOT OBJECT TO
FOREIGN MILITARY ELEMENTS IN CYPRUS AS SUCH, BUT ONLY WHEN
MAKARIOS DID NOT CONTROL THEM.

3. GOUNARIS WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR RELAUNCHED
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. HE OBSERVED THAT ENITHER GOC NOR GOG COULD BE
OTHERWISE SINCE TURKS PERSIST IN PUTTING FORTH FEDERATION
CONCEPT, MOST RECENTLY BY OLCAY AT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING MAY
29. GOUNARIS HIT HARD AT TURKISH SHIFT IN POSITION FROM THAT AT
INITIATION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN 1968. HE COMMENTED THAT
RECORD CONFIRMED THIS CHANGE. IN FACT THE SEMANTIC PROBLEM OF
"UNITARY" AND "FEDERATION" WAS ONE OF HIS SPECIALITIES SINCE
HE HAD COMPILED A CHRONOLOGY LAST FALL OF ALL REERENCES
SINCE 1968. GOUNARIS OBSERVED UNITARY/REDERATION ISSUE IS MORE
THAN SEMANTICS SINCE SUBSTANCE OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT
SETTLEMENT IS CONTINGENT UPON HOW THESE CONCEPTS ARE INTERPRETED.
ACCORDING TO HIM, WHILE MFA, WHICH LIKES TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF
WITH "HEALTHY QUOTIENT OF CLASSICAL GREEK SENSE OF BALANCE."
IS NOT OPTIMISTIC RE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, THEY MAY SPIN ON FOR
SEVERAL MONTHS SINCE ALL CONCERNED AGREE MECHANISM IS GOOD AND
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS HELP ALL TO SUSTAIN NOTION, HOWEVER
HALLUCINATORY, THAT THROUGH TALKS CYPRUS PROBLEM IS BEING
ADDRESSED.

4. GOUNARIS EXPLAINED THAT GREEK AND TURKISH DELEGATIONS TO THE
NATO OTTAWA MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ARE LARGE SINCE IT IS EXPECTED
FULL SCHEDULE OF BILATERAL ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED. GOUNARIS
SAID GREEK DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE IN ADDITION TO FONMIN
TETENES, DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS (FORMER AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY),
AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY COSMODOPOULOS, AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS LAGAKOS
AND CYPRUS COUNTRY DIRECTOR ANDREAS METAXAS.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT GURUN, TURKISH AMBASSADOR
HERE, WILL BE MEMBER TURKISH DELEGATION AT OTTAWA.
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